

INFORMATION REPORT

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TOPIC Germany (Russian Zone)/Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Economic and Political Information in the DDR

PLACE 25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

The factory political instructor of the VEB Gelenkwellenwerk, Stadtilm, Thuringia, an SED official Steinbrück (fnu), spoke to the employees and announced that the women of the plant would no longer be allowed time off for household work, and that free transportation would no longer be available to the employees. In a very lively discussion, those present asked the speaker which really exploited the workers more, the so-called capitalist or the state. Steinbrück preferred not to give an answer. One hundred seventy contribution cards (Spendenkarten) for the "National Front" were promptly handed back. The plant employs about 1,000 persons at the present time.

The Waggonfabrik in Gotha,* Thuringia, had to discharge about 400 persons at the end of March 1951, because the overload springs for railroad cars, which previously had been obtained from West Germany, were no longer available, and new material was not being delivered.

The firms Gebr. Richter** and Gebr. Steinert,*** today both VEB's, in Chermitz-Marthau, had to discharge a great many employees because of lack of materials, since the steel previously obtained from West Germany was no longer available.

The Thuringian Trade and Procurement Ministry must make deliveries of grain for bread to Czechoslovakia at the present time. As a result, it is estimated among Thuringian government circles that food rationing cards will be reintroduced in Czechoslovakia very shortly.

Gestewitz, a section of R8tha, Kreis Borna, Thuringia, is severely threatened by the continual working of the surface coal mine. The excavations are already 300 meters from the houses of Gestewitz. The large conveyor bridge (Förderbrücke) can barely be turned, according to experts. About 100 houses in Gestewitz with 600 inhabitants are threatened by these operations. It was attempted to erect new houses for those threatened; however, it is now revealed that no money is available for a resettlement.

The construction of the R8tha Cultural Palace, which was planned on a grand scale, and which was also meant for the use of the B8hlen plant, was suddenly stopped. The reason given for the stoppage was that no more material was available for the completion of the building.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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" [REDACTED] Comment: This firm is not further identifiable in available references
" [REDACTED] Comment: This is Eisenglaserei Harthau, Harthau, Saxony.
" [REDACTED] Comment: This is VEB Waggonbau Gotha.

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